



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 20, 2003

### WICHITA, KANSAS, MAN CONVICTED ON GUN CHARGE

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Jerry Lee Williams**, 51, Wichita, Kansas, was convicted on November 19, 2003, in U.S. District Court in Wichita, Kansas, of one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Melgren stated that according to evidence presented at trial, on July 19, 2003, officers with the Wichita Police Department responded to the report of a patron in possession of a gun at Denny's, 4024 E. Harry, Wichita, Kansas. When the police arrived they approached Jerry Lee Williams, along with others, and ordered Williams to remove his hands from his pockets. Williams did not comply and as officers struggled with Williams a gun discharged in Williams' right front pocket. The officers continued to struggle with Williams and others and did retrieve the firearm. Williams was taken to the hospital where he was treated for a minor gun shot wound to his leg.

Williams had previously been convicted of conspiracy to commit bank robbery in 1994 in Wichita, Kansas; aggravated robbery, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, theft and criminal possession of a firearm in 1984 in Kansas City, Kansas; and second degree murder in 1973 in Jackson County, Missouri.

Williams faces a minimum of fifteen years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for February 4, 2004, at 3:00 p.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Wichita Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation. Williams was charged under Project Safe Neighborhoods, a national initiative to reduce gun violence in our communities.